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CLAIMS

A1 1. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:5607.

A2 5. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an *S. epidermidis* polypeptide or a fragment of at least ten amino acid residues, said nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:1835.

A3 9. (Amended) A probe comprising a nucleotide sequence consisting of at least forty contiguous nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1835.

A4 10. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence of at least forty nucleotides in length, wherein the sequence is hybridizable to a nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1835.

REMARKS

Entry of the forgoing and further and favorable consideration of the subject application are respectfully requested. As stated correctly in the Office Action, Claims 1-31 are pending of which Claims 11-31 are withdrawn from consideration. The Examiner has allowed Claims 1-4 and rejected Claims 5,9, and 10. The Examiner has objected to Claims 6-8.

By this Amendment, Claims 1, 5, 9 and 10 have been amended to recite the elected nucleotide sequence and its encoded polypeptide sequence and to more precisely define the invention. Support for the amendments can be found in the Sequence Listing as well as the originally filed claims. Further support for the amended claims can be found page 10 line 2 and page 12 line 14.